these drugs. And, in fact, if any of the issues came, immediately rejoinders have been given. We have asked the expert Committee, the Central council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, to initiate the process and give rejoinders saying that these drugs are safe.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Disbursement of funds by NAFED to private parties

*265.SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has disbursed huge funds to private parties under the pretext of promoting exports of even non-agricultural items like iron-ore;

(b) if so, the volume of funds so given to private parties indicating details of identities of recipient private parties, along with dates of disbursal to respective parties and the terms thereof;

(c) whether these parties have largely defaulted in repaying the funds as per the terms;

(d) if so, the details thereof, indicating its impact on the financial health of NAFED; and

(e) the steps taken, if any, for recovery of the outstanding dues from those parties?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) NAFED, which is a national cooperative society governed under the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 has reported that it has diversified its business activities and undertaken new business initiatives in Public Private Partnership mode. Under this, NAFED disbursed funds amounting to Rs. 3962.24 crore to 62 parties. Out of 62 parties, 33 have settled their accounts. A Statement giving details of 62 parties to whom funds have, been disbursed by NAFED, year-wise, amount-wise, date-wise and amount due as on 31.10.2008, is given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 214, Annexure no. II] Out of Rs. 3962.24 crore funds disbursed by NAFED under such business activities, the amount recovered as on 31.10.2008 is Rs. 2886.36 crore and total amount due is Rs. 1438.71 crore including interest and service charges as intimated by NAFED.

The major terms and conditions for financing under tie-up/PPP business by NAFED were mainly (i) generally Investment Ratio ranging from 80:20 (80% investment to be made by NAFED and 20% being contributed by business associate) to 90:10 to various associates was allowed except in some cases where Letter of Credit were opened against fixed security deposit, (ii) rate of interest on investment of NAFED ranged from 7% to 10% p.a. to various associates, (iii) one time service charges on ex-godown/CIF/FOB value of stock ranged from 1% to 1.50% to various associates, (iv) stocks procured/imported were to be stored in name of NAFED and pledge in favour of NAFED,

(v) stocks were to be insured in favour of NAFED at the cost of business associate, (vi) sale/delivery of stock were to be against full payment/post dated cheques, (vii) exports of commodities like iron ore etc. were to be made through NAFED, (viii) in some of the cases, it was specified that the transactions were to be preferably completed within a period of four months.

NAFED has taken steps to recover the outstanding amount by filing criminal complaints with CBI/Economic Offences wing of the Crime Branch of Delhi Police, besides initiating legal cases and Arbitration proceedings against the defaulting parties. All these legal cases are being vigorously pursued by NAFED. The properties/stocks of the defaulting parties in all possible cases have been restrained and action for disposal of such properties/stocks has also been initiated. The cases have also been filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instrument Act for dishonour of all cheques of the defaulting parties.

Pregnancy related deaths

*266.SHRI B. J. PANDA:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that half a million of women die during child-birth, of whom 70,000 are from India, in other words a woman dies every six minutes from a pregnancy-related cause in India, as per a new survey conducted by an NGO "The White Ribbon Alliance India";

(b) whether Government is also aware that a country's maternal mortality rate is considered to be the best indicator of its health system; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to control the high rate of woman mortality during child-birth?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The Registrar General of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, brings out estimates of maternal mortality through its Sample Registration System. As per the latest survey report titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends, causes and risk factors" published in the year 2006 by the Registrar General of India, nearly 78,000 maternal deaths have been estimated on the basis of about 26 million births in 2004. It has been ascertained from the NGO "The White Ribbon Alliance India" that they have not conducted any such survey.

For a holistic appreciation of the status of health care, several morbidity and mortality indicators are relevant and required to be monitored, including Maternal Mortality Ratio.

In this context, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in April, 2005, to improve access to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary health care, especially in the rural areas of the country, particularly for poor women and children, with special focus on 18 States which have weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure. Under the Mission, the following key strategies and interventions are being implemented to accelerate the pace of reduction in maternal mortality, namely:

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;